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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. UPTON].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 26, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2969. An act to eliminate the Board of Tea Experts by repealing the Tea Importation Act of 1897.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 1459. An act to provide for uniform management of livestock grazing on Federal land, and for other purposes.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] for 5 minutes.

RECOGNIZING HISTORICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WOMEN

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I am continuing to talk a bit about women in history since this is Women's History Month.

One of the things I have been doing this month as I talked to people is I carry around a little shoe. It is no bigger than that, and it is a shoe that someone gave to me that they bought in an antique store in China that was used to go on a woman's foot. When you think about it, China was one of the few countries where you were not even better off being rich if you were female, and maybe many of you remember the story of the three swans written about the three Chinese women who kept praying that when they came back they would not come back as a female.

But when you think about the binding of the foot, and I have not seen anyone that could look at that shoe and not shudder to think of the pain of what it felt like to have that foot bound, and then when you think about the fact that that practice did not stop until halfway through the century and there are still women who are older hobbling around that had had this done to them, you realize how far the world is behind on dealing with women and women's issues.

Mr. Speaker, when I talk about the binding of the foot, I think we bind something in this society, too. We have bound women's minds. Women's minds have been bound by our not knowing our real history, not knowing what really we contributed to this country, and therefore I think we have made women feel that they have no right to ask for anything or to ask to be treated equally in this country because the image is they did not do anything, why should they get anything? They came over here on cruise ships, sat around eating bonbons, getting their hair

done, and have not done anything except waiting for people to win the battles for them.

Some of the exciting things that have happened while I am in office that have gone on to try to correct that image has been the Women in the Military Memorial that many, many women have come forward to put out there, and whether you look at the Revolutionary War, which had women serving in it, Molly Corbit being one that is buried at West Point and was the first woman to ever have gotten a full pension just like men did because George Washington insisted that was the only fair thing, and there were other women who were in the Revolutionary Army, too, that got the same thing, or whether you go right on through all the wars until the current Bosnian crisis, where we have women in the field in Bosnia; you see pictures of them coming across the screen today as the First Lady is over there talking to them with the troops.

You know, women have been like the lioness, I guess, in nature. They are perfectly willing to protect their country, to do whatever it takes, and any time, whether it was in winning the West, whether it was World War II, whether it is today in Bosnia, or whether it was way, way back in the Revolutionary War, they did that.

Mr. Speaker, how sad that we do not know their names and we do not know so many of the stories of their bravery. I cannot wait until the Women's Military Memorial is done because the stories they are collecting are unbelievable. They kind of fell off the table when the history books were written, stories of nurses that were downed in World War II in Albania and how long it took them to walk to the coast in the middle of winter to finally get out. I mean, very brave things that would make great movies, and let us hope some day we do make movies about

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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